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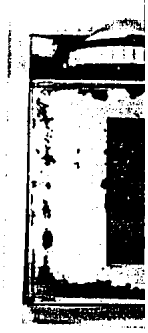


DATA ON SPONTANEOUS COMBUSTION IN STORED PEAT;
AWARDS TO USSR PEAT ENTERPRISES, JUNE 1953

Torfyanaya Promyshlennost', No 9,
Moscow, Sep 53

TENDENCY OF MILLED PEAT TO SPONTANEOUS COMBUSTION -- Moscow, Torfyanaya Promyshlennost', No 9, Sep 1953

In planning the storage of milled peat, it is necessary to understand its tendency to spontaneous combustion. During the first years of the development of milled peat extraction, Instorf (All-Union Scientific Research Institute of Peat Chemistry and Artificial Dehydration of Peat) worked out a classification which was applicable to the storage of peat in small storage units. However, the laboratory method of determining the tendency of peat to spontaneous combustion provided for by this classification did not always give results corresponding to fact and consequently could not satisfy the demands of industry.

To work out a new classification, VNIITP (All-Union Scientific Research Institute of the Peat Industry) made a study of the actual condition of peat which had been gathered in heaps by machinery at 34 peat enterprises of the system of the Main Administration of Peat, Ministry of Electric Power Stations and Electrical Industry USSR, for the years 1948 - 1952.

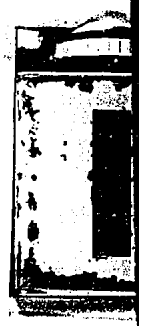
On the basis of data obtained on heat evolution and spontaneous combustion of milled peat while stored in heaps, it was established that maximum temperatures (60 degrees centigrade and above) appear chiefly in August, September and later, and only on rare occasions, in July. Spontaneous combustion occured as follows: August, 7.5 percent; September, 57.5 percent; October, 17.5 percent; November, 10.0 percent; and January, 2.5 percent. The maximum incidence was thus noted in September-October.

It was further established that types of milled peat can be divided into three groups according to their tendency to spontaneous combustion. This Group is characterized by cases of spontaneous combustion in September, October, and occasionally in August. When weather conditions have been unfavorable and the peat has acquired additional moisture, cases of spontaneous combustion may be delayed until October-November. However, when peat of Group C is stored in heaps from 1 June until 1 March of the follwing year, spontaneous combustion occurs in 20 percent of all heaps.

Group B includes milled peat with an average tendency toward spontaneous combustion, instances of which are observed in October-November and occasionally, as early as September. Not more than 15-20 percent of milled peat of Group B stored in heaps from 1 June to 1 March shows signs of spontaneous combustion.

Group A is made up of milled peat with the least tendency to spontaneous combustion. Storage units included in this group either give no evidence at all of spontaneous combustion or at least incur it very late, that is, not before March-April.

By analysis of the data on the actual condition of peat in storage heaps, it was established that the inclination of peat to spontaneous combustion is closely connected with the botanical composition of the peat. Furthermore, the tendency to heat evolution and spontaneous combustion usually declines with the increase in decomposition of the peat, with the exception of sedge, woody sedge, woody reed, and reed peat. The data revealed that spontaneous combustion occurs most frequently in the case of sedge, scheuchzeria, reed, lowland moss, woody sedge, and woody reed peats. All peat fields must be included in the dangerous group during the first year of their exploitation.



Peat itself is divided into three classes: hill peat, bottom peat /found in lowlands, often under bodies of water of varying size/, and intermediate peat. A subdivision of these classes into dangerous, nondangerous, and moderately dangerous /from the standpoint of spontaneous combustion/ types has been worked out based on the botanical composition and the degree of decomposition of the peat. Workers in peat enterprises should examine this classification carefully, evaluate it from the view point of application to conditions in their own enterprises and report to the institute all cases of conformity or deviation of the actual condition of the peat from the classification.

OUTSTANDING PEAT ENTERPRISES IN JUNE 1953 - Moscow, Torfyanaya Promyshlennost', No 9, Sep 53

By decree of the VTsSPS (All-Union Central Council of Trade Unions) and the Ministry of Electric Power Stations on the results of the All-Union Socialist Competition for June 1953, Transferable Red Banners and prizes have been awarded to the following peat enterprises, transport administration, construction offices:

1 Peat Enterprises

The Banner of the Council of Ministers was again awarded to the Mugreyevskiy Peat Enterprise of the Chernoramenskiy Peat Trust. Workers of the enterprise, who had received the banner for their accomplishments during May, intensified their successes and kept first place in the June competition for peat enterprises.

The Mugreyevskiy Peat Enterprise fulfilled the June plan for peat extraction 100.5 percent and also exceeded the plan for peat gathering. The June plan for the mechanized gathering of peat was fulfilled 200 percent because of early use of gathering machines. The enterprises also fulfilled the plan for peat transport 116 percent; achieved good results in labor productivity, fulfilling the plan for output per worker 112 percent; and saved 11 percent in wages of personnel. The plan for capital repair and housing, as well as for cultural and public buildings, was also completed.

The Banner of the VTsSPS and the Ministry of Electric Power Stations and Electrical Industry was awarded again to the Yaroslavl' Peat Enterprise /of the Yaroslavl' Peat Trust/, which fulfilled the plan for peat extraction 123 percent and the plan for peat gathering 113 percent. Because of the early use of gathering machines, the June plan for mechanized gathering of peat was exceeded considerably. The Yaroslavl' Peat Enterprise fulfilled the June plan for peat transport 113 percent; exceeded the plan for labor productivity, with the output per worker 125 percent of plan; and achieved a 5.6-percent saving on wages of industrial production personnel.

Second prizes were again awarded to the Chistiy Peat Enterprise of the Chernoramenskiy Peat Trust and the Enterprises imeni Ordzhonikidze of the Belorussian Peat Trust. Both these enterprises successfully met the June plan for peat extraction, achieved good results for mechanized gathering of peat, exceeded the plan for peat transport, and coped successfully with the plan for capital repair. They also showed good achievements in output per worker and in saving on wages.

Third prizes were won by the Karinskiy Peat Enterprise of the Kirov Peat Trust, the Ozeretskiy Peat Enterprise of the Orekhovo Peat Trust, and the Pikinskiy Peat Enterprise of the Gor'kiy Peat Trust. The enterprises successfully met the plan for extraction, gathering, and transport of peat, and achieved good results also in labor productivity and in saving on wages.

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2. Transport Administrations

The Banner of the VTsSPS and the Ministry of Electric Power Stations and Electrical Industry was again awarded to the Shatura Transport Administration. This administration, operating without accident, fulfilled the plan for peat transport 110.9 percent; coped successfully with the plan for repair of steam locomotives, railroad cars, and railroads; fulfilled the plan for output per worker 112 percent; and effected a 10.3-percent saving in wages of industrial and production personnel. Transport costs of peat were reduced 9.2 percent.

A second prize was awarded to the Komsomol'skiy Transport Administration of the Ivanovo Peat Trust, which fulfilled the June plan for peat transport 113.1 percent, worked without accident, and achieved good results in labor productivity, fulfilling the plan for output per worker 123 percent. This administration also achieved a 10.4-percent saving in the wages of industrial and production personnel and reduced transport costs 20.7 percent.

3. Construction Offices

A second prize was awarded to the construction office of the Sedas Peat Enterprise of the Latvian SSR. In the second quarter 1953, this office completed the plan for construction and installation 100.9 percent, the plan for bog development 135.4 percent, and reduced costs of construction and installation 6 percent. This construction office completed the quarter plan for output per worker 126 percent and effected a 13-percent saving in wages.

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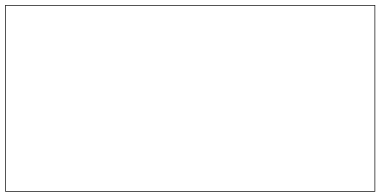

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